

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An E-mail management system for managing a forward destination of an E-mail, comprising:

an accept unit accepting a setting request of a forward destination address corresponding to a receipt address of the E-mail; and

a confirming unit executing a confirmation of a validity of the forward destination address.

2. An E-mail management system according to claim 1, further comprising:

a sending unit sending a test mail to the forward destination address; and

a receiving unit receiving a response to the test mail,

wherein said confirming unit commands said sending unit to send the test mail and confirms a response via said receiving unit.

3. An E-mail management system according to claim 1, further comprising a communication unit communicating with a sending device sending a test mail to the forward destination and a receiving device receiving a response to the test mail,

wherein said confirming unit commands said sending device to send the test mail via said communication unit and confirms the response received by said receiving device

via said communication unit.

4. An E-mail management system according to claim 1, further comprising:

5 a forward destination registering unit registering the forward destination address if the confirmation proved successful; and

 a forward control unit forwarding the E-mail, wherein said forward control unit, where the forward
10 destination address corresponding to the receipt address is registered in said forward destination registering unit, forwards the received E-mail addressed to this receipt address to the forward destination address.

15 5. An E-mail management system according to claim 1, further comprising a communication unit communicating with a mail server which registers the forward destination address corresponding to the receipt address of the E-mail, and forwards the received E-mail addressed to this receipt
20 address to the forward destination address,

 wherein said confirming unit commands, if the confirmation proved successful, said mail server to register the forward destination address corresponding to the receipt address via said communication unit.

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6. An E-mail management system according to claim 2, wherein said confirming unit confirms whether or not

the response is transmitted from the receipt address.

7. An E-mail management system according to claim 1, wherein said confirming unit issues a command of sending
5 test mails respectively to the receipt address and the forward destination address, and confirms responses to these two test mails.

8. An E-mail management system according to claim
10 4, wherein said forward destination registering unit registers a forward destination address unconditionally in response to said setting request for setting the forward destination address that is within a predetermined range, and registers a forward destination address with
15 respect to which the confirmation by said confirming unit proved successful in response to said setting request for setting the forward destination address that is beyond the predetermined range.

20 9. An E-mail management system according to claim 1, further comprising a notifying unit notifying that a permission of forwarding to the forward destination address with respect to which the confirmation proved unsuccessful, can not be given.

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10. An E-mail management system according to claim 4, wherein said confirming unit confirms a validity of

the already-registered forward destination address after a predetermined period of time has elapsed since the registration thereof, and

5 said forward control unit suspends forwarding to the forward destination address till the confirmation proves successful after the elapse of the predetermined period of time.

11. An E-mail management system according to claim
10 5, wherein said communication unit receives a request for confirming the already-registered forward destination address from said mail server, and

 said confirming unit confirms the validity of this forward destination address.

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12. An E-mail management system according to claim 1, further comprising an information providing unit disclosing a step of the response to a test mail, to a user who is within a predetermined range,

20 wherein said confirming unit confirms whether or not the response conforms with the response step.

13. An E-mail management system according to claim 1, wherein said confirming unit confirms whether the
25 response contains a predetermined data string or not.

14. An E-mail management system cooperating with

a mail server which registers a forward destination address corresponding to a receipt address of an E-mail and forwards the received E-mail addressed to this receipt address to the forward destination address, said system
5 comprising:

an accept unit accepting a setting request of a forward destination address corresponding to a receipt address of the E-mail; and

a command unit issuing a command of confirming a
10 validity of the forward destination address.

15. An E-mail management system according to claim 14, further comprising a sending unit sending a test mail to the forward destination,

15 wherein said command unit commands said sending unit to send a test mail and has a validity of the forward destination address confirmed by a response to the test mail, to said mail server from the receipt address.

20 16. An E-mail management system according to claim 14, further comprising a communication unit communicating with a sending device sending a test mail to the forward destination,

wherein said command unit commands said sending
25 device to send the test mail to the forward destination address via said communication unit and has the validity of the forward destination address confirmed by a response

to the test mail, to said mail server from the receipt address.

17. An E-mail management system according to claim
5 16, wherein said sending device is said mail server.

18. An E-mail management system according to claim
14, wherein said command unit issues a command of sending
test mails respectively to the receipt address and the
10 forward destination address, and makes said mail server
confirm the validity of responses to these two test mails.

19. An E-mail management system according to claim
16, wherein said communication unit receives a request
15 for confirming the already-registered forward
destination address from said mail server, and
said command unit issues the command of confirming
the validity of this forward destination address.

20 20. An E-mail management system according to claim
14, further comprising an information disclosure unit
disclosing a step of the response to a test mail, to a
user who is within a predetermined range.

25 21. An E-mail management system according to claim
1, wherein said accept unit accepts the setting request
by receiving the E-mail in a predetermined format at a

predetermined address.

22. An E-mail management system according to claim
14, wherein said accept unit accepts the setting request
5 by receiving the E-mail in a predetermined format at a
predetermined address.

23. A mail server cooperating with an E-mail
management system which accepts a request for setting a
10 forward destination address corresponding to a receipt
address of an E-mail, said mail server comprising:

a confirming unit executing a confirmation of a
validity of the forward destination address; and

a forward destination registering unit registering
15 the forward destination address corresponding to the
receipt address of the E-mail,

wherein said forward destination registering unit
registers the forward destination address with its
validity confirmed.

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24. A mail server according to claim 23, further
comprising a receiving unit receiving a response to a test
mail sent to the forward destination,

wherein said confirming unit confirms the validity
25 of the forward destination address by the response.

25. A mail server according to claim 23, wherein

said confirming unit confirms whether the response is transmitted from the receipt address or not.

26. A mail server according to claim 23, wherein
5 said confirming unit confirms whether the response contains a predetermined data string or not.

27. An E-mail forward destination management method
of managing a forward destination of an E-mail, comprising:
10 accepting a request for setting a forward destination address corresponding to a receipt address of an E-mail; and
executing a confirmation of a validity of the forward destination address.

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28. An E-mail forward destination management method according to claim 27, further comprising:
sending a test mail to the forward destination address; and
20 receiving a response to the test mail,
wherein said confirmation includes confirming a validity of the forward destination address by the response received.

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29. An E-mail forward destination management method according to claim 27, further comprising:
commanding a sending device sending the E-mail to

send a test mail to the forward destination address; and
communicating with a receiving device receiving a
response to the test mail,

wherein said confirmation includes confirming the
5 validity of the forward destination address by the response
received by said receiving device.

30. An E-mail forward destination management method
according to claim 27, further comprising:

10 registering the forward destination address
corresponding to the receipt address when the confirmation
proved successful; and

forwarding the received E-mail addressed to the
receipt address to the forward destination address when
15 the forward destination address corresponding to the
receipt address is registered.

31. An E-mail forward destination management method
according to claim 27, further comprising commanding a
20 mail server which registers the forward destination
address corresponding to the receipt address of the E-mail,
and forwards the received E-mail addressed to this receipt
address to the forward destination address,

wherein said mail server is commanded to register
25 the forward destination address if the confirmation proved
successful.

32. An E-mail forward destination management method according to claim 28, wherein said confirmation includes confirming whether or not the response is transmitted from the receipt address.

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33. An E-mail forward destination management method according to claim 27, further comprising sending test mails respectively to the receipt address and the forward destination address,

10 wherein said confirmation includes confirming responses to these two test mails.

34. An E-mail forward destination management method according to claim 30, further comprising registering a forward destination address unconditionally in response to said setting request for setting the forward destination address that is within a predetermined range,

15 wherein there is registered a forward destination address with respect to which the confirmation proved successful in response to said setting request for setting the forward destination address that is beyond the predetermined range.

35. An E-mail forward destination management method according to claim 27, further comprising notifying that a permission of forwarding to the forward destination address with respect to which the confirmation proved

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unsuccessful, can not be given.

36. An E-mail forward destination management method according to claim 30, further comprising executing a
5 confirmation of a validity of the already-registered forward destination address after a predetermined period of time has elapsed since the registration thereof,

wherein said forwarding to the forward destination address is suspended till the confirmation proves
10 successful after the elapse of the predetermined period of time.

37. An E-mail forward destination management method according to claim 31, further comprising:

15 receiving a request for confirming the already-registered forward destination address; and confirming the validity of this already-registered forward destination address.

20 38. An E-mail forward destination management method according to claim 27, further comprising disclosing a step of the response to a test mail, to a user who is within a predetermined range,

wherein said confirmation includes confirming
25 whether or not the response conforms with the response step.

39. An E-mail forward destination management method according to claim 27, wherein said confirmation includes confirming whether the response contains a predetermined data string or not.

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40. An E-mail forward destination management method of managing a forward destination of an E-mail in cooperation with a mail server which registers a forward destination address corresponding to a receipt address of the E-mail and forwards the received E-mail addressed to this receipt address to the forward destination address, said method comprising:

accepting a setting request of a forward destination address corresponding to a receipt address of the E-mail; and

issuing a command of confirming a validity of the forward destination address.

41. An E-mail forward destination management method according to claim 40, further comprising sending a test mail to the forward destination,

wherein a validity of the forward destination address is confirmed by a response to the test mail, to said mail server from the receipt address.

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42. An E-mail forward destination management method according to claim 40, wherein in said issuing, a sending

device sending the E-mail is commanded to send a test mail to the forward destination address, and

the validity of the forward destination address is confirmed by a response to the test mail, to said mail server from the receipt address.

43. An E-mail forward destination management method according to claim 42, wherein said sending device is said mail server.

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44. An E-mail forward destination management method according to claim 40, wherein in said issuing, sending test mails respectively to the receipt address and the forward destination address is commanded, and making said mail server confirm the validity of responses to these two test mails.

45. An E-mail forward destination management method according to claim 40, further comprising:

20 receiving a request for confirming the already-registered forward destination address from said mail server; and

issuing the command of confirming the validity of this forward destination address.

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46. An E-mail forward destination management method according to claim 40, further comprising disclosing a

step of the response to a test mail, to a user who is within a predetermined range.

47. An E-mail forward destination management method
5 according to claim 27, wherein said accepting includes receiving the E-mail in a predetermined format at a predetermined address.

48. An E-mail forward destination management method
10 according to claim 40, wherein said accepting includes receiving the E-mail in a predetermined format at a predetermined address.

49. An E-mail forward destination management method
15 of managing a forward destination of an E-mail in cooperation with an E-mail management system which accepts a request for setting a forward destination address corresponding to a receipt address of the E-mail, said method comprising:

20 confirming a validity of the forward destination address;

registering the forward destination address; and

forwarding, when the forward destination address corresponding to an address of the E-mail received is
25 registered, the E-mail to this forward destination address.

50. An E-mail forward destination management method according to claim 49, further comprising receiving a response to a test mail sent to the forward destination, wherein said confirming includes confirming a
5 validity of the forward destination address by the response.

51. An E-mail forward destination management method according to claim 49, wherein said confirming includes
10 confirming whether the response is transmitted from the receipt address or not.

52. An E-mail forward destination management method according to claim 49, wherein said confirming includes
15 confirming whether the response contains a predetermined data string or not.

53. A readable-by-computer recording medium recorded with a program making a computer manage a forward
20 destination of an E-mail, said program comprising:
accepting a request for setting a forward destination address corresponding to a receipt address of an E-mail; and
executing a confirmation of a validity of the forward
25 destination address.

54. A readable-by-computer recording medium

recorded with a program according to claim 53, further comprising:

 sending a test mail to the forward destination address; and

5 receiving a response to the test mail,

 wherein said confirmation includes confirming a validity of the forward destination address by the response received.

10 55. A readable-by-computer recording medium recorded with a program according to claim 53, further comprising:

 commanding a sending device sending the E-mail to send a test mail to the forward destination address, and

15 communicating with a receiving device receiving a response to the test mail,

 wherein said confirmation includes confirming the validity of the forward destination address by the response received by said receiving device.

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 56. A readable-by-computer recording medium recorded with a program according to claim 53, further comprising:

25 registering the forward destination address corresponding to the receipt address when the confirmation proved successful; and

 forwarding the received E-mail addressed to the

receipt address to the forward destination address when the forward destination address corresponding to the receipt address is registered.

5 57. A readable-by-computer recording medium
recorded with a program according to claim 53, further
comprising commanding a mail server which registers the
forward destination address corresponding to the receipt
address of the E-mail, and forwards the received E-mail
10 addressed to this receipt address to the forward
destination address,

 wherein said mail server is commanded to register
the forward destination address if the confirmation proved
successful.

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 58. A readable-by-computer recording medium
recorded with a program according to claim 54, wherein
said confirmation includes confirming whether or not the
response is transmitted from the receipt address.

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 59. A readable-by-computer recording medium
recorded with a program according to claim 53, further
comprising sending test mails respectively to the receipt
address and the forward destination address,

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 wherein said confirmation includes confirming
responses to these two test mails.

60. A readable-by-computer recording medium
recorded with a program according to claim 56, further
comprising registering a forward destination address
unconditionally in response to said setting request for
5 setting the forward destination address that is within
a predetermined range,

wherein there is registered a forward destination
address with respect to which the confirmation proved
successful in response to said setting request for
10 setting the forward destination address that is beyond
the predetermined range.

61. A readable-by-computer recording medium
recorded with a program according to claim 53, further
15 comprising notifying that a permission of forwarding to
the forward destination address with respect to which
the confirmation proved unsuccessful, can not be given.

62. A readable-by-computer recording medium
20 recorded with a program according to claim 56, further
comprising executing a confirmation of a validity of the
already-registered forward destination address after a
predetermined period of time has elapsed since the
registration thereof,

25 wherein said forwarding to the forward destination
address is suspended till the confirmation proves
successful after the elapse of the predetermined period

of time.

63. A readable-by-computer recording medium
recorded with a program according to claim 57, further
5 comprising:

receiving a request for confirming the
already-registered forward destination address; and
confirming the validity of this already-registered
forward destination address.

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64. A readable-by-computer recording medium
recorded with a program according to claim 53, further
comprising disclosing a step of the response to a test
mail, to a user who is within a predetermined range,
15 wherein said confirmation includes confirming
whether or not the response conforms with the response
step.

65. A readable-by-computer recording medium
20 recorded with a program according to claim 53, wherein
said confirmation includes confirming whether the
response contains a predetermined data string or not.

66. A readable-by-computer recording medium
25 recorded with a program making a computer manage a forward
destination of an E-mail in cooperation with a mail server
which registers a forward destination address

corresponding to a receipt address of the E-mail and forwards the received E-mail addressed to this receipt address to the forward destination address, said program comprising:

5 accepting a setting request of a forward destination address corresponding to a receipt address of the E-mail; and

 issuing a command of confirming a validity of the forward destination address.

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67. A readable-by-computer recording medium recorded with a program according to claim 66, further comprising sending a test mail to the forward destination,

 wherein a validity of the forward destination
15 address is confirmed by a response to the test mail, to said mail server from the receipt address.

68. A readable-by-computer recording medium recorded with a program according to claim 66, wherein
20 in said issuing, a sending device sending the E-mail is commanded to send a test mail to the forward destination address, and

 the validity of the forward destination address is confirmed by a response to the test mail, to said mail
25 server from the receipt address.

69. A readable-by-computer recording medium

recorded with a program according to claim 68, wherein said sending device is said mail server.

70. A readable-by-computer recording medium
5 recorded with a program according to claim 66, wherein in said issuing, sending test mails respectively to the receipt address and the forward destination address is commanded, and making said mail server confirm the validity of responses to these two test mails.

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71. A readable-by-computer recording medium recorded with a program according to claim 66, further comprising:

receiving a request for confirming the
15 already-registered forward destination address from said mail server; and

issuing the command of confirming the validity of this forward destination address.

20 72. A readable-by-computer recording medium recorded with a program according to claim 66, further comprising disclosing a step of the response to a test mail, to a user who is within a predetermined range.

25 73. A readable-by-computer recording medium recorded with a program according to claim 53, wherein said accepting includes receiving the E-mail in a

predetermined format at a predetermined address.

74. A readable-by-computer recording medium
recorded with a program according to claim 66, wherein
5 said accepting includes receiving the E-mail in a
predetermined format at a predetermined address.

75. A readable-by-computer recording medium
recorded with a program making a computer manage a forward
10 destination of an E-mail in cooperation with an E-mail
management system which accepts a request for setting a
forward destination address corresponding to a receipt
address of the E-mail, said program comprising:

confirming a validity of the forward destination
15 address;

registering the forward destination address; and
forwarding, when the forward destination address
corresponding to an address of the E-mail received is
registered, the E-mail to this forward destination
20 address.

76. A readable-by-computer recording medium
recorded with a program according to claim 75, further
comprising receiving a response to a test mail sent to
25 the forward destination,

wherein said confirming includes confirming a
validity of the forward destination address by the

response.

77. A readable-by-computer recording medium
recorded with a program according to claim 75, wherein
5 said confirming includes confirming whether the response
is transmitted from the receipt address or not.

78. A readable-by-computer recording medium
recorded with a program according to claim 75, wherein
10 said confirming includes confirming whether the response
contains a predetermined data string or not.

79. A computer data signal embodied in a carrier
wave and encoding a program making a computer manage a
15 forward destination of an E-mail, comprising:

accepting a request for setting a forward
destination address corresponding to a receipt address
of an E-mail; and

executing a confirmation of a validity of the forward
20 destination address.

80. A computer data signal embodied in a carrier
wave and encoding a program according to claim 79, further
comprising:

25 sending a test mail to the forward destination
address; and

receiving a response to the test mail,

wherein said confirmation includes confirming a validity of the forward destination address by the response received.

5 81. A computer data signal embodied in a carrier wave and encoding a program according to claim 79, further comprising:

 commanding a sending device sending the E-mail to send a test mail to the forward destination address; and

10 communicating with a receiving device receiving a response to the test mail,

 wherein said confirmation includes confirming the validity of the forward destination address by the response received by said receiving device.

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 82. A computer data signal embodied in a carrier wave and encoding a program according to claim 79, further comprising:

 registering the forward destination address
20 corresponding to the receipt address when the confirmation proved successful; and

 forwarding the received E-mail addressed to the receipt address to the forward destination address when the forward destination address corresponding to the
25 receipt address is registered.

 83. A computer data signal embodied in a carrier

wave and encoding a program according to claim 79, further comprising commanding a mail server which registers the forward destination address corresponding to the receipt address of the E-mail, and forwards the received E-mail
5 addressed to this receipt address to the forward destination address,

wherein said mail server is commanded to register the forward destination address if the confirmation proved successful.

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84. A computer data signal embodied in a carrier wave and encoding a program according to claim 80, wherein said confirmation includes confirming whether or not the response is transmitted from the receipt address.

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85. A computer data signal embodied in a carrier wave and encoding a program according to claim 79, further comprising sending test mails respectively to the receipt address and the forward destination address,

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wherein said confirmation includes confirming responses to these two test mails.

86. A computer data signal embodied in a carrier wave and encoding a program according to claim 82, further
25 comprising
registering a forward destination address
unconditionally in response to said setting request for

setting the forward destination address that is within a predetermined range,

wherein there is registered a forward destination address with respect to which the confirmation proved
5 successful in response to said setting request for setting the forward destination address that is beyond the predetermined range.

87. A computer data signal embodied in a carrier
10 wave and encoding a program according to claim 79, further comprising notifying that a permission of forwarding to the forward destination address with respect to which the confirmation proved unsuccessful, can not be given.

15 88. A computer data signal embodied in a carrier wave and encoding a program according to claim 82, further comprising executing a confirmation of a validity of the already-registered forward destination address after a predetermined period of time has elapsed since the
20 registration thereof,

wherein said forwarding to the forward destination address is suspended till the confirmation proves successful after the elapse of the predetermined period of time.

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89. A computer data signal embodied in a carrier wave and encoding a program according to claim 83, further

comprising:

receiving a request for confirming the
already-registered forward destination address; and
confirming the validity of this already-registered
5 forward destination address.

90. A computer data signal embodied in a carrier
wave and encoding a program according to claim 79, further
comprising disclosing a step of the response to a test
10 mail, to a user who is within a predetermined range,
wherein said confirmation includes confirming
whether or not the response conforms with the response
step.

15 91. A computer data signal embodied in a carrier
wave and encoding a program according to claim 79, wherein
said confirmation includes confirming whether the
response contains a predetermined data string or not.

20 92. A computer data signal embodied in a carrier
wave and encoding a program making a computer manage a
forward destination of an E-mail in cooperation with a
mail server which registers a forward destination address
corresponding to a receipt address of the E-mail and
25 forwards the received E-mail addressed to this receipt
address to the forward destination address, said program
comprising:

accepting a setting request of a forward destination
address corresponding to a receipt address of the E-mail;
and

issuing a command of confirming a validity of the
5 forward destination address.

93. A computer data signal embodied in a carrier
wave and encoding a program according to claim 92, further
comprising sending a test mail to the forward destination,
10 wherein a validity of the forward destination
address is confirmed by a response to the test mail, to
said mail server from the receipt address.

94. A computer data signal embodied in a carrier
15 wave and encoding a program according to claim 92, wherein
in said issuing, commanding a sending device sending the
E-mail is commanded to send a test mail to the forward
destination address, and

the validity of the forward destination address is
20 confirmed by a response to the test mail, to said mail
server from the receipt address.

95. A computer data signal embodied in a carrier
wave and encoding a program according to claim 94, wherein
25 said sending device is said mail server.

96. A computer data signal embodied in a carrier

wave and encoding a program according to claim 92, wherein
in said issuing, sending test mails respectively to the
receipt address and the forward destination address is
commanded, and making said mail server confirm the validity
5 of responses to these two test mails.

97. A computer data signal embodied in a carrier
wave and encoding a program according to claim 92, further
comprising:

10 receiving a request for confirming the
already-registered forward destination address from said
mail server; and

issuing the command of confirming the validity of
this forward destination address.

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98. A computer data signal embodied in a carrier
wave and encoding a program according to claim 92, further
comprising disclosing a step of the response to a test
mail, to a user who is within a predetermined range.

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99. A computer data signal embodied in a carrier
wave and encoding a program according to claim 79, wherein
said accepting includes receiving the E-mail in a
predetermined format at a predetermined address.

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100. A computer data signal embodied in a carrier
wave and encoding a program according to claim 92, wherein

said accepting includes receiving the E-mail in a predetermined format at a predetermined address.

101. A computer data signal embodied in a carrier
5 wave and encoding a program making a computer manage a forward destination of an E-mail in cooperation with an E-mail management system which accepts a request for setting a forward destination address corresponding to a receipt address of the E-mail, said program comprising:
10 confirming a validity of the forward destination address;
registering the forward destination address; and
forwarding, when the forward destination address corresponding to an address of the E-mail received is
15 registered, the E-mail to this forward destination address.

102. A computer data signal embodied in a carrier wave and encoding a program according to claim 101, further
20 comprising receiving a response to a test mail sent to the forward destination,

wherein said confirming includes confirming a validity of the forward destination address by the response.

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103. computer data signal embodied in a carrier wave and encoding a A program according to claim 101, wherein

said confirming includes confirming whether the response is transmitted from the receipt address or not.

104. A computer data signal embodied in a carrier
5 wave and encoding a program according to claim 101, wherein
said confirming includes confirming whether the response
contains a predetermined data string or not.